



Toontown Times

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HOLLYWOOD DIRECTOR HAS A COW

Repeatedly blown lines in bovine flick drives director haywire

By Shuv L. Dert
Entertainment Editor

In an off-camera scene played out all too frequently, the disgusted director hurls his megaphone through the air and screams, "CUT CUT CUT CUT! Roger, zee script says 'ROGER HAS BABY HERMAN BACK WHEN MOMMY GETS HOME.' Can't you do anyzing right?"

Roger shuffles his feet, twists his ears, and then sputters out a simple "S-s-sorry, N.D." The apology appears to be Roger's most well-rehearsed line.

Baby Herman continues to sulk quietly in the corner, arms crossed to punctuate his dismay over the slow filming process, delayed yet again by this latest confrontation.

True to the name of R.K. Maroon's highly anticipated movie, filming has been filled with *Hare Raising Havoc*. The atmosphere on the set has been especially chaotic because of the director's desire for first shot perfection. Said a stunt coordinator who requested anonymity, "We know when we drop a refrigerator on Roger's head, he has to twirl birds and bells around his head before he'll see stars. N.D. doesn't like that—he wants Roger seeing stars on the first blow."

N.D.—director Niles Darfegnügen—was specially flown in from Germany by the R.K. Maroon studios to film their latest project. Studio moguls hope that his hard-driving directing style will create an exciting film that audiences will want to see again and again.

Known for his grueling work schedules and volatile personality, N.D. can always be found perching on the edge of his chair, anxiously awaiting acting miscues. Insiders say that although flubbed lines drive N.D. into a frenzy, he seems to secretly enjoy each opportunity to hurl his megaphone at a moving target.

In spite of—or perhaps because of—the on-set turmoil, *Hare Raising Havoc* is this year's most eagerly awaited Hollywood production. The suspense-thriller begins with Mommy leaving Roger Rabbit in charge of Baby Herman as she steps out.

Sound like a simple plot? It's everything but when Baby Herman spots the huge Tasty Moo Dairy bottle atop the milk processing plant and starts a high speed crawl towards this mother lode of milk.

The story kicks into full action as a befuddled Roger attempts to escape the house

that Baby Herman so deftly exited moments before. Roger's desperate quest is as much a sincere desire to bring the toddler back to safety as it is to protect his own cottontail: If Baby Herman is not home when Mommy returns, Roger returns to a dead-end career among test tubes and petri dishes at the science lab.

Will Roger Rabbit trigger udder cow-tastrophe on moo-vie set?

After much indoor mayhem filled with flying dishes, flinging fans, and springy couches—an incredible roster of everyday objects are enlisted as escape tools—Roger manages to make it into the streets. But running the outdoor gauntlet of vicious dogs, speeding cars, and dangerous construction sites is still not heroic enough an effort to reunite Roger with Baby Herman.

In the climactic scene, our hero is caught in the heart of the dairy operation. If Roger can escape this pasteurizing prison, he and Baby Herman will be reunited. If not, Mommy will see to it that Roger has the opportunity to learn about science from the wrong end of a microscope.

Jessica, every redblooded man's two-dimensional redhead dream, makes a cameo appearance in her hubby's movie when he's hurting from head to rabbit's foot. Her curvaceous presence gives Roger inspiration to carry on.

There's something for every R.K. Maroon aficionado in this one: Action fans will cheer on Roger's bold moves, comedy fans will howl at our hero's many antics, romance fans will sigh at the on-screen reunion of the Rabbits, and suspense fans will delight in the many twists and turns. *Hare Raising Havoc* promises to be a haymaker in this season's milk run of movies if it—and our star—survives the filming process.

Next week: Toontown votes—Can Seven Dwarfs win election to become first mayoral "tag-team"?



OPEN SEASON ON ANIMAL FILMS

By Ann M. Mullover
Movie Critic

Three Wren and a Baby

This tear-jerker centers on a baby gorilla mysteriously abandoned in the nest of three bachelor wren. The birds at first angrily pin blame on an inept stork, demanding this fowl delivery be reversed. But soon the three fall for the hairy newcomer and do everything within their power to fight for legal custody and upgrade their nest as the baby doubles in weight each week. This daring film studies the sensitive subject of cross-species adoption.

★★★

Pretty Wombat

A burrowing marsupial beauty leaves her Tasmanian home to make it in the big city of Melbourne. But she's exposed to dangerous levels of urban frost when the big city koalas look down their blunt noses at her. Will she return to her home where eucalyptus leaves are free for the picking, or will she stay and teach these snooty faux bears a thing or two about mammalian gentility? Guaranteed to tug the heartstrings of romantics and Australiaphiles.

★★★

Trick Racy

Trick Racy, the multi-million dollar thoroughbred, has been kidnapped by a group of sinister weasels connected to the Horse Trader's Underground. Secretary It, Trick Racy's ponyhood friend and stallmate goes on an epic cross country search, following a frustrating trail of cold alfalfa and empty horse trailers. Track scenes are exciting, but plot lacks basic horse sense.

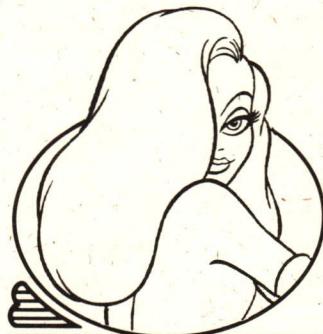
★

Don't Know-It's Society

A group of freelance anthropologists come across a family of ostriches who plunged their heads into the sand thirty years ago in an attempt to "tune out" the world. The well-meaning scientists thrust the flightless birds back into society to study their response to the new modern world. Rather than adapting, the ostriches continue to stick their heads in tailpipes, storm drains and other inappropriate places. Classic conflict on the rights of head-burrowing birds vs. modern science.

★★★

(continued on back page)



DEAR JESSICA

JESSICA'S ADVICE TO THE LOST, CONFUSED AND FRUSTRATED

(If you're not lost, confused, or frustrated, don't read this!)

DEAR JESSICA: I keep tripping over a lump in my living room rug. Should I pick up my feet or see an eye specialist?

—KLUTZY IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR KLUTZY: Take it from a girl who's swept a thing or two under the rug—sounds like there's something fishy under there!



DEAR JESSICA: Is it true that the light in the refrigerator goes off when the door is closed?

—UNILLUMINATED FROM UTICA

DEAR UNILLUMINATED: Good question. Try opening and closing the door several times to find out.



DEAR JESSICA: My kids spend hours in the bathroom. I can never get them out unless I threaten to make tofu-tuna quiche for dinner. What do you suggest?

—TENSE IN TEXAS

DEAR TENSE: There's an old proverb that goes: "He who kicks soap in toilet will rise to new heights." I'm not entirely sure what it means, but it's the only bathroom proverb I know. Anyway, let's hope tofu-tuna quiche is not on the menu tonight.



DEAR JESSICA: My wife is so cheap she won't let me buy utensils for our outdoor grill. How do I take steaks off the grill without barbecuing my arms, too?

—SINGED IN SAGINAW

DEAR SINGED: Douse the flames with water before you remove the steaks. The meat will taste funny, but I guarantee you won't be adding roasted knuckles to the dinner menu.



DEAR JESSICA: I've always wanted to run away and become a circus clown. However, I'm concerned about a potential drawback to the occupation—once you glue the big red nose on, how do you get it off?

—STUCK IN STANTON

DEAR STUCK: I contacted Blozo, head clown of the Dingaling Brothers Circus, and he told me that he tickles his real nose with a feather and then sneezes the extra one off. Good luck with your career decision!



DEAR JESSICA: I work in construction as a bricklayer. My astrologer warned me to beware of high places. Should I stick to one story jobs?

—ACROPHOBIC FROM AKRON

DEAR ACROPHOBIC: Hook onto something for safety and if you have to let go, land in something that will break your fall and not your neck.



DEAR JESSICA: I'm the quality control supervisor at the local dairy. I get stuck working late a lot because so many bottles get broken during the QC process. What can I do to remedy the situation and get home earlier?

—LATE IN LANSING

DEAR LATE: Don't cry over spilled milk. Clean up your act by not breaking bottles and bonus time will be on your side.



DEAR JESSICA: "If you want to succeed, try everything again and again—you might find that practice makes perfect."



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Good Morning City Zoo

A wacky panda bear runs the most outrageous morning zoo radio show. Fan support is huge for Ping Pong, but the program director threatens to pull the plug when too many headphones are snapped in half by Ping Pong's wide-set ears. Will Ping Pong have surgery to move his ears closer together to save his job, or will he stand up for his rights and risk being returned to a life of bamboo eating behind bars? A must-see for zoo fans and a should-see for everyone else.

★★★

Spelunkingphobia

Has Clyde the cat-kicking canine met his match in Brutus the two hundred pound fearless feline? This ex-big time wrestling kitty has buried Clyde's beloved bone somewhere in the dark recesses of a mineshaft. Clyde must battle both a brawl-hungry Brutus and a phobia of the deep underground to recover his prized possession. Standard action vehicle for megastar pair.

★

Honey, I Sunk the Kids

Papa Goat foregoes the annual road trip of grazing the hillsides of California in favor of teaching the kids how to windsurf in the rugged San Francisco Bay. After days of futile lessons, dozens of imagined shark sightings, and constant bleating from five kids with pneumonia, Papa prepares to shepherd the kids home in defeat. But when the departing Goats are ridiculed by a local hotshot sheep, they hit the water with a still-naive but somewhat-renewed spirit. Will Papa Goat bring home accomplished sailors or will he have to introduce Mama Goat to the phrase "lost at sea"? Waterlogged with bad dialogue, but salvaged by hot windsurfing footage.

★

Green Bard

Set deep in the medieval forest of Shurwood, Jed the story-telling frog is the only survivor of a midnight attack on his tiny, gentle village of Ribbidham. When the king's men refuse to help him seek out the band of murderers, Jed sings his way through the other hamlets of Shurwood, recruiting young frogs whose villages have been similarly decimated. The quest for justice climaxes with a startling confrontation in a mysterious bayou thousands of miles from home. Solid period piece suitable for the entire family except for children under 17.

★★

